

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
COMMERCE**

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIAM CRISMORE**, on January 25, 2001 at 8:30 A.M., in Room 317-C Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dick Haines, Chairman (R)
Sen. William Crismore, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Becky Beckert-Graham, OBPP
Gary Hamel, Legislative Branch
Amber Sauer, Committee Secretary
Doug Schmitz, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Fish Wildlife and Parks
Administration and Finance
Division, and Wildlife
Division, 1/25/2001
Executive Action: Fish Wildlife and Parks
Administration and Finance
Division, and Wildlife
Division

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

DEPARTMENT OF FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

DP-114 was read by **Mr. Gary Hamel, LFD**. No issues, and no discussion.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that DP-114 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 51}

DP-102 was read by **Mr. Hamel**. **Mr. Dave Mott, Director of Administration and Finance, DAVE MOTT**, spoke on the Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) internet site, and the proposed request in DP-102. The FWP internet site is located at FWP.STATE.MT.US. The internet site was started in 1996. The goals of the Department are to upgrade the internet site more frequently, to become better organized, and to create an intranet site. **Mr. Mott** pointed out that the FWP internet site is one of the most popular internet sites out of State Government sites. The internet site generated approximately 190,000 hits in the last 12 months.

EXHIBIT (jnh20a01)

SEN. NELSON spoke of the concern that the LFD had raised, and said that her feeling was it looked like they already had plenty of things on their internet site, and could not understand why they needed more at this time.

REP. KAUFMANN asked for clarification if this was for one FTE. **Mr. Mott** responded that is correct.

REP. TROPILA asks if licence fees would go up if this was passed, as this is paid for out of licence dollars. **Mr. Mott** responded that this would not have a direct bearing on licence fees. He explained that everything that comes out of the licence fees does cause the rates to eventually go up, but this would not be a one to one cost.

SEN. CRISMORE said that one of the common arguments that he hears regarding trespassing is that people do not know where the boundaries of specific areas are, so he thinks that FWP putting maps on their web site would be a good tool to help these people.

SEN. TASH concurs with the importance of the mapping.

Motion: REP. TROPILA moved that DP-102 BE ADOPTED. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. A vote was taken with REP. KAUFMANN, REP. TROPILA, AND SEN. CRISMORE voting AYE, and SEN. NELSON and SEN. TASH voting NO. VICE CHAIR CRISMORE decided that in CHAIRMAN HAINES's absence that the vote would remain open until his vote was received.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Mr. Mott spoke on DP-103. He reminded the committee that CHRIS SMITH had gone through this in detail at the previous hearing. At the present time it looks like the Department will be receiving about \$800,000 from CARA.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that DP-103 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Mr. Mott spoke on the duplicating center. There is one FTE that works there, and the center provides small scale copying services to the Department.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that the PROPOSED DUPLICATING CENTER RATES BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mott spoke on the new proposed vehicle rates. This had been previously visited. He explained how they had to lower vehicle rates to comply with an audit, and now they needed to adjust those rates to bring them up where they need to be.

EXHIBIT(jnh20a02)

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that THE PROPOSED VEHICLE RATES BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. REP. KAUFMAN VOTED AYE via proxy. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mott spoke on the proposed rates for the warehouse. He explained that the main purpose of the warehouse is for clothing for the Department employees. A few other things go into the warehouse including some specialty items for the Fisheries Division. The new rates do reflect and increase in utilities as well.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that THE PROPOSED WAREHOUSE RATES BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. REP. KAUFMANN voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE C-15 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. REP. KAUFMANN voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that REPLACE PARAGRAPH 2 ON PAGE C-10 WITH NEW LANGUAGE ON PAGE 4 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. REP. KAUFMANN voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that TO ACCEPT THE LANGUAGE AS WRITTEN IN THE 1ST AND THE 3RD PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE C-10 BE ADOPTED. SEN. NELSON seconded the motion. REP. KAUFMANN voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 5-0.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 340}

EXHIBIT (jnh20a03)

Mr. Don Childress, Administrator, Wildlife Division, FWP, gave an overview of the division. There are 80 employees who work for the division, and it is broken down into three major areas: species managements, habitat enhancement and conservation, and research technical services. Each of those areas is broken down into smaller elements. The Management area deals with surveys and inventory, season settings and regulation, game damage, trapping and transplanting and species management. The habitat enhancement and conservation area deals with Habitat Montana, the migratory bird stamp, upland game bird habitat, and the Sikes act. Research focuses on the mountain lion, black bear, white-tail deer, and the elk. The technical services is broken into the wildlife lab and harvest surveys.

EXHIBIT (jnh20a04)

SEN. NELSON asks for more information on turkey transplanting. **Mr. Childress** explains that they mainly transport turkeys to creek bottoms and comparable habitats. He said that turkeys tend to migrate and go where they like to be, so the department always does a follow up. This program appears to be very successful.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 320}

Mr. Childress spoke on DP-503. He explained that the main part of the state that will benefit from this is the Northwestern section. The anticipation is to provide landowners with

education on bears. Also this DP is for Kaerilian bear dogs. These dogs are trained to provided conditioning to ears, and keep them out of unwanted places.

SEN. TASH asked if this process involved relocation of bears. **Mr. Childress** said that it does sometimes involve the relocation of bears. However, conditioning them to not return to the same area is the preferred method. They are very careful about the times when they relocate bears. For example, they do not relocate bears at the beginning of hunting season, as this would put the bear at risk, to have it in unfamiliar territory.

SEN. CRISMORE asks how much responsibility that the State has and how long the state feels that it will need to continue the program. **Mr. Childress** said that the Department is moving towards a point where they will be able to de-list.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TASH** moved that **DP-503 BE ADOPTED**. **SEN. NELSON** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 28}

DP-504 was spoken on by **Mr. Childress**; he said that the survey and inventory adjustment is a very important part of the program. This is necessary due to the increased cost of fuel, and the usage of contractors for both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. This is also a very important component of being able to meet the management plan.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TASH** moved that **DP-504 BE ADOPTED**. **SEN. CRISMORE** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that **DP-505 BE ADOPTED**. **SEN. TASH** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

DP-506 was introduced by **Mr. Hamel**. He stated that the LFD wished to withdraw the issue associated with this DP.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TASH** moved that **DP-506 BE ADOPTED**. **SEN. NELSON** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that **DP-507 BE ADOPTED**. **SEN. TASH** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 160}

Mr. Childress spoke on DP-511. He stated that he can remember a time when the hunting regulations were printed on a single piece of paper, and now they are 80 page booklets. The printing process has to be done a couple of times, as there are different books that need to go out at specific times. The demand for the regulations continues to go up. There appears to be a continual desire from the public for increased information.

Motion/Vote: REP. TROPILA moved that DP-511 BE ADOPTED. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Childress explained DP-512. The basic need for this DP stems from an accounting error.

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP-512 BE ADOPTED. SEN. NELSON seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 263}

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP-513 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP-515 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion: SEN. NELSON moved that DP-516 BE ADOPTED. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 430}

Mr. Childress spoke on DP-501. For the mountain lion research he feels that the additional .50 FTE is a safety issue. It is essential during the collaring process that they have three people on the ground: one houndsman and 2 staff people. He pointed out that this process is much different than trapping a turkey, as mountain lions have teeth and claws, and therefore employees safety is at risk without the additional help.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that DP-501 BE ADOPTED. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. SEN. NELSON voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that DP-502 BE ADOPTED. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. SEN. NELSON voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that DP-501 and DP-502 BE AMENDED to ONE TIME ONLY. SEN. CRISMORE seconded the motion. SEN. NELSON voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 6-0.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 170}

Mr. Childress spoke on DP-509. He spoke about a meeting in Bozeman regarding wolves. There have been some concerns addressed by the public on the elk population near Gardner. They would like to have some answers of what kind of impact the wolves are having on that population. The National Park Service has been doing work with the wolves inside the park, but what they are doing does not answer the question of what is happening outside of the park. The Department would like to be able to track movement.

SEN. TASH asks if this would have anything to do with livestock damage control. **Mr. Childress** responded that hopefully the study will help the Department figure out exactly what is going on with wolves, and their interaction with the environment.

CHAIRMAN HAINES asked **Mr. Childress** why they were hiring a grade 12 position for something that was so important. He questioned if they possibly needed someone with more expertise. **Mr. Childress** said that they are going to be working with the University System on this, and feel that they will have the expertise needed.

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP-509 BE ADOPTED. SEN. TASH seconded the motion. SEN. NELSON voted AYE via proxy. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:15 A.M.

REP. DICK HAINES, Chairman

SANDRA WHITAKER, TRANSCRIBER

DH/AS/SW

EXHIBIT (jnh20aad)